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A NEW STUDY HELD ON KENNEDY DEATH

Search of Pantry Area Finds No 'Second-Gun' Clues

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 19—The Los Angeles County District Attorney said today that a 7½ hour examination yesterday of the Ambassador Hotel pantry area, where Senator Robert F. Kennedy was killed in 1968, revealed no new evidence to support a so-called "second-gun" theory.

John K. Van de Kamp, the District Attorney, said that an object shown in a 1968 Associated Press photograph and described in the caption as a bullet, which some observers have said is proof that more bullets than the eight fired by Sirhan B. Sirhan, were found at the scene, "appears to be a nail which has now been removed by the experts for preservation."

The pantry examination by a contingent of district attorney officials, policemen, criminologists and carpenters began late yesterday when the authorities obtained a search warrant to enter the area after the hotel's management refused to admit them without a court order.

A Surprise Action

The surprise action followed by several weeks the filing of a petition by Paul Schrade, one of those wounded in the shooting, asking a state judge to broaden the scope of the "second-gun" hearings by allowing further studies on the number of shots fired and bullet pathways.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Robert A. Wenke, who on Aug. 14 ordered a retesting of bullet evidence in the case by a court -appointed panel of firearms experts, said earlier this week he would rule on the petition Dec. 31.

After conducting exhaustive tests, the seven-member panel unanimously concluded that they could find no "substantive or demontrable evidence" of a second gun.

Vincent T. Bugliosi, who prosecuted Charles Manson and who with former Representative Allard K. Lowenstein of New York is representing Mr. Schrade, has said he still has doubts that Mr. Sirhan was the only gunman firing the night of June 5, 1968.

Mr. Bugliosi said his doubts were partly based on the photograph, which showed two Los Angeles police officers pointing to an object lodged in a center post dividing swinging doors leading into the pantry. Mr. Bugliosi said the officers told him recently the object "appeared to be a bullet.

The attorney, who watched the examination last night, emerged from the pantry to charge the District Attorney's office with resisting his efforts to broaden the hearings.

"If I run for district attorney, I will definitely launch a new investigation," he said.

Mr. Van de Kamp said that in addition to the center post in the photograph the authorities had examined other wooden structural areas in the pantry for traces of possible bullet holes, although he conceded that the facing on one door frame was removed by the police more than seven years ago and subsequently destroyed.